

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NEAE-00 ERDE-00 /126 W

-----121338Z 036408 /50

O R 121222Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3935

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCUSNAVEUR PASS POLAD

COMSIXTHFLT

EUCOM PASS POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, IT, LY, TS

SUBJECT: TURNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: DISCUSSION WITH  
ITALIANS

REF: STATE 80407

1. EMBOFFS INFORMED PAOLO GALLI (MFA DIRECTOR OF OFFICE  
FOR NORTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) AND BARTHOLOMEO ATTOLICO  
(MFA MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICAN  
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POLITICAL AFFAIRS) OF U.S. VIEWS AND POSTION AS REQUESTED  
REFTEL. MFA OFFICIALS SIAD THAT IF SECURITY COUNCIL DOES  
TAKE UP THIS ISSUE GOI WOULD BE WELL PLEASED WITH RESOLUTION  
THAT FAVORED CESSATION OF DRILLING IN DISPUTED SHELF AREA  
AND WOULD HELP ITALY EXTRICATE SCARABEO IV FROM DIFFICULT  
SITUATION.

2. THEY SAID LIBYANS ARE LOOKING INTENSIVELY FOR DRILLING RIG TO REPLACE SCARABEO IV AND THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO RECOMMENCE DRILLING. UNTIL NOW NEITHER ENI-SAIPEM NOR THE LIBYANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE COMPANY WITH RIG THAT WOULD TAKE JOB ON, ALTHOUGH GALLI SAID CABLE RECEIVED THIS MORNING (APRIL 12) FROM TRIPOLI INDICATED LIBYANS MAY HAVE FOUND SUCH A COMPANY. IF ANOTHER COMPANY IS ACTUALLY WILLING AND ABLE TO BEGIN DRILLING, PROBLEM FOR ITALY WOULD THEN BE APPARENT FAILURE OF ENI-SAIPEM TO LIVE UP TO TERMS OF CONTRACT AS COMPANY IS NOW PLEADING FORCE MAJEURE FOR STOPPING DRILLING OPERATIONS.

3. MFA OFFICIALS MENTIONED THAT GOI HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR THIRD COUNTRY THAT COULD OFFER ITS GOOD OFFICES IN HELPING TO RESOLVE DISPUTE. THEY THOUGHT SAUDI-ARABIA MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE. GOI HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY, HOWEVER, TO ITS APPROACH TO SAUDIS. ALSO MENTIONED IRAQI OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES RECEIVED THROUGH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS, BUT THEY DOUBTED IRAQIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO TUNISIA.

4. ATTOLICO SUMMED UP BY SAYING GOI HAD MADE TWO ATTEMPTS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM AND NOW HAD NO FURTHER PRECONCEIVED IDEAS. BOTH MFA OFFICIALS NOTED TUNISIANS HAD ALSO USED VIOLENT WORDS, BUT CONCEDED THEY WERE BEHAVING MORE REASONABLY THAN THE LIBYANS.  
GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, IT, LY, TS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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